

Duties of the Commission

- Develop and recommend a national Arctic research policy and research goals and objectives
- Assist the Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee in establishing a national Arctic research program plan to implement the policy
- Facilitate cooperation in Arctic research among federal, state, and local governments and with international partners
- Review federal Arctic research programs and recommend coordination improvements
- Recommend improvements in Arctic research logistics
- Recommend improved methods for data sharing among research entities

Five Priority Research Goals

- GOAL 1 | Understand Arctic Environmental Change
- GOAL 2 | Improve Arctic Human Health
- GOAL 3 | Assess Natural Resources
- GOAL 4 | Advance Civil Infrastructure Research
- GOAL 5 | Evaluate Indigenous Languages, Identities, and Cultural Research Needs



United States Arctic Research Commission (USARC)

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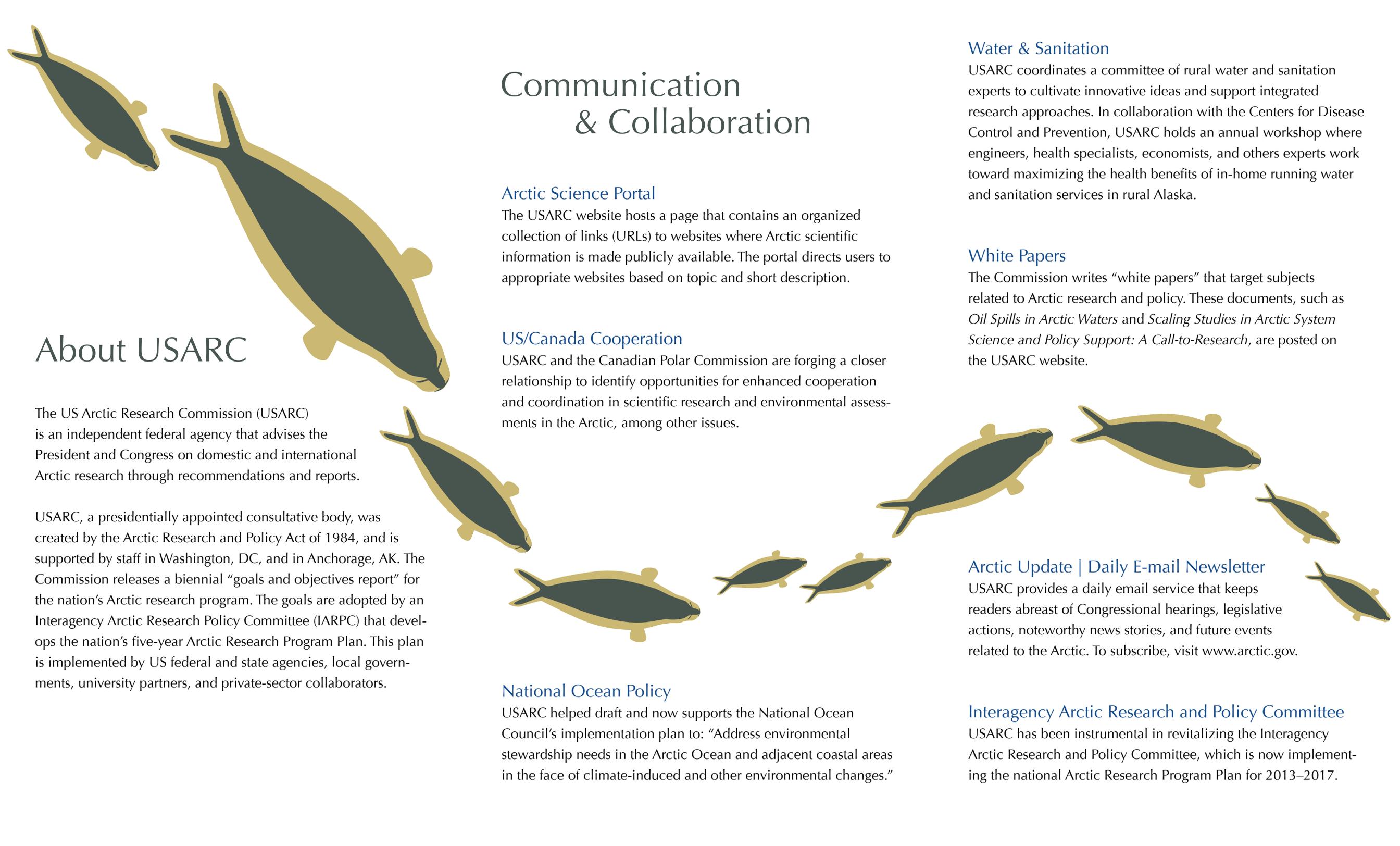
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UNITED STATES ARCTIC RESEARCH COMMISSION



About USARC

The US Arctic Research Commission (USARC) is an independent federal agency that advises the President and Congress on domestic and international Arctic research through recommendations and reports.

USARC, a presidentially appointed consultative body, was created by the Arctic Research and Policy Act of 1984, and is supported by staff in Washington, DC, and in Anchorage, AK. The Commission releases a biennial “goals and objectives report” for the nation’s Arctic research program. The goals are adopted by an Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee (IARPC) that develops the nation’s five-year Arctic Research Program Plan. This plan is implemented by US federal and state agencies, local governments, university partners, and private-sector collaborators.

Communication & Collaboration

Arctic Science Portal

The USARC website hosts a page that contains an organized collection of links (URLs) to websites where Arctic scientific information is made publicly available. The portal directs users to appropriate websites based on topic and short description.

US/Canada Cooperation

USARC and the Canadian Polar Commission are forging a closer relationship to identify opportunities for enhanced cooperation and coordination in scientific research and environmental assessments in the Arctic, among other issues.

National Ocean Policy

USARC helped draft and now supports the National Ocean Council’s implementation plan to: “Address environmental stewardship needs in the Arctic Ocean and adjacent coastal areas in the face of climate-induced and other environmental changes.”

Water & Sanitation

USARC coordinates a committee of rural water and sanitation experts to cultivate innovative ideas and support integrated research approaches. In collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, USARC holds an annual workshop where engineers, health specialists, economists, and others experts work toward maximizing the health benefits of in-home running water and sanitation services in rural Alaska.

White Papers

The Commission writes “white papers” that target subjects related to Arctic research and policy. These documents, such as *Oil Spills in Arctic Waters* and *Scaling Studies in Arctic System Science and Policy Support: A Call-to-Research*, are posted on the USARC website.

Arctic Update | Daily E-mail Newsletter

USARC provides a daily email service that keeps readers abreast of Congressional hearings, legislative actions, noteworthy news stories, and future events related to the Arctic. To subscribe, visit www.arctic.gov.

Interagency Arctic Research and Policy Committee

USARC has been instrumental in revitalizing the Interagency Arctic Research and Policy Committee, which is now implementing the national Arctic Research Program Plan for 2013–2017.